

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed July 19, 2002, the Examiner: (a) allowed claims 6 and 7; (b) rejected claims 23, 24, 31, 32, 35, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, taking the position that these claims contain subject matter which is not described in the specification; (c) provisionally rejected claims 29-36 under the judicially-created doctrine of nonstatutory double patenting, taking the position that these claims constitute double patenting over claims 1 and 3-12 of a co-pending Application Ser. No. 09/328,328; and (d) rejecting claims 29-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, taking the position that these claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,618,616 to Hume.

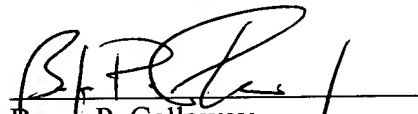
Applicant responds to this Examiner's Office Action by amending claims 23 and 24 to overcome the § 112, ¶ 1 rejection and by canceling the remaining rejected claims (29-36).

With particular attention to the § 112, ¶ 1 rejection of claims 23 and 24, the Examiner contends that the inclusion of the modifier "about" (claim 23: "a cure rate of less than **about** 60 seconds;" and claim 24: "barrier layer has a thickness of less than **about** 80 mils) is not supported in the specification. While Applicant has amended claims 23 and 24 to remove the "about" language to put them in condition for allowance, Applicant does not agree (nor does the Examiner even contend) that claim 6 is limited in any way to a barrier layer with a cure rate of less than **exactly** 60 seconds and a thickness of less than **exactly** 80 mils. As the specification clearly states: "*Preferably*, the barrier layer 30 is applied to a dry film thickness of *preferably* between 40 to 80 mils, and even more preferably at a thickness of 60 mils. It should be understood, however, that the specific characteristics of the barrier layer are *dictated by the specific application*." (emphasis added; p. 4, line 31 to p. 5, line 2).

Applicant contends that the present application is in a condition for allowance, and early allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Moreover, If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful to the allowance of this application, a telephone conference is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

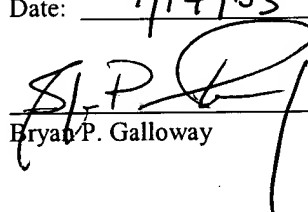
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the date shown below with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as First Class Mail (37 CFR 1.8(a)), in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP: RESPONSES/FEE, Commissioner for Patents, Arlington, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 7/14/03


Bryan P. Galloway

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

23. (Twice Amended) The liner of claim 6, wherein said barrier layer has a cure rate of less than [about] 60 seconds.

24. (Twice Amended) The liner of claim 6, wherein said barrier layer has a thickness of less than [about] 80 mils.